



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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July 28, 2006

Dr. Rodney Cluck  
Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Branch of Environmental Assessment  
1849 C Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Dr. Cluck:

I am writing in regards to the scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cape Wind Energy Project in Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts. While I am a strong supporter of renewable energy, any new technology to develop offshore renewable energy resources must be approached with the utmost care and attention. For this reason, I believe that a host of issues that are of direct importance to residents of Cape Cod and the Islands must take center stage in any review process.

As part of the preparation of the Cape Wind DEIS, I ask that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) address the following matters when it begins its review of this proposal to the degree fitting a project that is the first of its kind in the United States and the largest such project in the world:

- a broad statement of project purpose and need so that solutions are not limited to the area in the immediate Nantucket Sound region;
- an extensive review of alternatives to Cape Wind, including onshore projects and additional offshore sites beyond the four identified by MMS;
- any public safety issues regarding recreational boating, commercial and public transit vessel traffic, and commercial and private aircraft navigation;
- an independent assessment of economic impacts and risks associated with the project, including its effect on tourism, property values, commercial fishing, transportation, and jobs;

- the compliance with ordinances and regulations that local communities and Barnstable County already have in place that protect coastal resources;
- the near-shore and offshore construction impacts, such as evaluating truck traffic through local communities, vessel traffic offshore, and airspace traffic such as helicopters carrying personnel and equipment to the construction site;
- any noise and visual disruptions associated with the project during its construction and operation;
- water turbidity from disturbance of bottom sediments during project construction and operation;
- the potential for pollution of near-shore water and shell-fishing beds from spills of petroleum or other hazardous materials during the construction phase and operation of the facility;

In terms of land-based impacts for communities where infrastructure connections are contemplated, consideration must be given to:

- local zoning ordinances;
- local conservation commission by-law requirements; and
- type and impact of infrastructure associated with construction and operation of the facility

In addition, since the project is proposed to be sited on public land and subsidized with public dollars, any review must include a complete cost/benefit analysis for public review as part of the DEIS, including a business plan that reveals both capital investment and projected profits for the project developers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Demetrius J. Atsalis**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Barnstable District